



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
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Big Bend National Park News Release

RECORD BREAKING VISITATION AT BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

Big Bend National Park surpassed 400,000 visitors for the first time in park history for the year 2005, eclipsing the old record of 378,000 set in 1976. The number of people visiting the park is a milestone as more and more people find out about and become interested in the wonders of Texas's first national park.

The land that is now part of Big Bend National Park was largely purchased by the State of Texas in the early 1940s, and the park was first established on June 12, 1944. Since that time, visitation has been over the 300,000 mark on a number of occasions, but has never reached the milestone of 400,000 until this past year.

A number of factors are likely helping with park visitation, including articles and photo shoots in print and broadcast media such as magazines and television programs. Also, the growth of the Internet is allowing visitors from afar to get a better idea of the many and varied recreational, natural, and cultural opportunities the park has to offer.

Park Superintendent John H. King stated, "We are very pleased to see more visitors from the state, country, and the international community enjoying and learning about the truly outstanding resources of Big Bend National Park."

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